

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 L-03 IO-14 PA-02 PRS-01 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 SSM-05 TRSE-00 /070 W
-----023302 071031Z /10

O 070947Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4300
USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
USDEL TAIF IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 5038

USIAC

USIA FOR IOP/M; IPS; IBS; INA; JIDDA OR TAIF PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION - SECRETARY'S MIDEAST VISIT

1. AUGUST 7 DAMASCUS DAILIES GIVE MAJOR ATTENTION
TO VANCE MISSION. TISHRINE, HOWEVER, WAS ONLY PAPER TO
DEVOTE BANNER HEADLINE TO SECRETARY'S TRIP.

2. TISHRINE'S BANNER HEADLINE READS: "VANCE'S MISSION
HITS SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES." NEWS LEAD READS: "ARAB
INSISTANCE ON COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL AND GUARANTEE OF
PALESTINIAN NATIONAL RIGHTS, SYRIA'S STAND FREEZE
WORKING GROUP PROPOSAL; UN WILL NOT BE LEFT OUT OF PEACE
EFFORTS" HEADLINES LEAD INTO FRONT PAGE ARTICLE BY
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"POLITICAL EDITOR," WHICH EVALUATES RESULTS OF SECRETARY'S TALKS TO DATE. ARTICLE STATES: "AFTER HIS VISITS TO FOUR ARAB COUNTRIES IT IS POSSIBLE TO SAY THAT VANCE IS FACING OBSTACLES WHICH WILL MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO TRANSFORM U.S. VIEWS AND PROPOSALS INTO THE BASIS FOR SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS TOWARD A DURABLE AND JUST PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES

CONSIDER PRESIDENT ASSAD'S REJECTION OF THE PROPOSED WORKING GROUP TO BE THE PRIMARY OBSTACLE TO VANCE'S MISSION IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THERE SAME CIRCLES BELIEVE ASSAD'S STAND ON THE WORKING GROUP IDEA HAS KILLED ANY HOPE FOR THE SUCCESS OF THIS IDEA, WHICH AIMED AT RECONCILING ISRAEL'S OBJECTION TO PLO PARTICIPATION IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AND SYRIA'S INSISTENCE THAT PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION AT GENEVA WAS A RECOGNITION OF PALESTINIAN NATIONAL RIGHTS."

3. ALSO PRIMINENTLY FEATURED ON FRONT PAGES OF ALL DAILIES IS REPORT ON ASSAD'S BRIEFING OF PALESTINIAN LEADERS ON RESULTS OF VANCE VISIT, ALONG WITH STATEMENT BY FATAH DEPUTY COMMANDER SALAH KHALAF (ABU IYAD): "THE POSITIONS OF THE PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION AND THOSE OF SYRIA ARE IDENTICAL."

4. IN BAATH AMID KHOULI'S EDITORIAL IS CAPTIONED: "BEGINNING OF THE NAIL-BITING STATE." KHOULI ECHOES OTHER EDITORIALS ON SUBJECT OF SYRIA'S INSISTENCE ON BASIC PRINCIPLES, AND WARNS: "THE FORTHCOMING PERIOD IS GOING BE DANGEROUS WITHOUT DOUBT, BOTH POLITICALLY AND MILITARILY. WE ARE GOING INTO THE NAIL-BITING STATE. THIS STAGE WILL TEST OUR RESOLVE AND OUR ABILITY TO HOLD FAST TO OUR POSITION. THIS IS THE STAGE WHERE VARIOUS PRESSURES WILL MOUNT AND ARAB SOLIDARITY WILL PASS

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THROUGH A VERY SEVERE TEST FROM WHICH IT MUST EMERGE WITH A MINIMUM OF DAMAGE. THIS IS THE STAGE IN WHICH ALL PERIPHERAL DIFFERENCES AMONG THE ARABS WILL BE EXPLOITED."

5. MOHAMMAD ZARROUF WRITING IN THAWRA STATES THAT BASIS OF LASTING PEACE IN MIDEAST CAN BE FOUND IN PRESIDENT ASSAD'S STATEMENTS TO PRESS DURING VANCE VISIT TO DAMASCUS. HE REITERATES: "THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IS NOT A GOAL IN ITSELF. ITS IMPORTANCE WOULD BE EQUAL TO ITS ABILITY TO TAKE PRACTICAL STEPS ON THE ROAD TO A JUST PEACE BASED ON WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL ARAB LANDS AND RESTORATION OF THE NATIONAL RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS. IF THE U.S. WANTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SETTLEMENT OF THE AREA CRISIS IN A SERIOUS AND NEUTRAL WAY, THEN IT IS HER DUTY TO BRING THE NECESSARY PRESSURES AGAINST ISRAEL TO ACCEPT U.N. RESOLUTIONS."

KEITH

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Sent Date: 07-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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